



April 2020

## Book Review

Gerald Rasmussen

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### Recommended Citation

Rasmussen, Gerald (2020) "Book Review," *The Bridge*: Vol. 20 : No. 1 , Article 10.  
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/thebridge/vol20/iss1/10>

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# Book Review

Junction City to Denmark:

A Boyhood Journey

Reviewed by GERALD RASMUSSEN

Much has been written about immigrants coming to the United States. Much less has been written about immigrants who returned to their native countries.

Visti Favrholt's book From Junction City to Denmark: A Boyhood Journey fits the later description, but it is much, much more.

To be sure Visti was only a thirteen year old boy when, in the depths of the depression, his father, a Pastor in the Danish Lutheran Church in Junction City, decided to return to his native Denmark, and greater economic security, in 1933.

Visti enjoyed his boyhood days in Junction City and in every respect regarded himself as an American. He was an extremely reluctant immigrant to Denmark. He adjusted slowly to the use of the Danish language. He did not like Denmark and wrote many letters to his closest friend back in Junction City, Harold Bruce.

Fortunately Harold saved those letters. When Visti finally achieved his goal of returnig to North America, (Vancouver, Canada) he contacted Harold Bruce and was given a shoe box containing those letters. They were written

with all the vigor and passion of a thirteen year old angry adolescent and became the inspiration for the book which he decided to write, in order to share that unusual experience with others.

Junction City to Denmark : A Boyhood Journey is an emotional experience. It is sad and it is funny. One thinks of Charlie Chaplin's definition of humor as playful pain. It is a captivating, delightful book to read, and presents an insightful glimpse of a boyhood life in the 1930's in Junction City as well as the subsequent years in Denmark. The author also provides additional insights of the years during the Second World War when Denmark was occupied by German armed forces. He concludes with a moving description of his long delayed return to his much romanticized Junction City and coming to terms with his disappointment that the Junction City of his youth had either changed, or had not ever quite existed as he remembered it.

Junction City to Denmark : A Boyhood Journey is an excellent book, well written, easy to read. Both its perspective and its story line is unique. The boyhood letters, reprinted verbatim as they were written, reveal a boy of remarkable insights, who, since he felt isolated from the Danish society in which he lived, found solace in communication to his old friend "back home". And how lucky that Harold Bruce saved those letters. We recommend it highly.



